

International Cooperation Aimed at Saving the Barents Sea

The Tenth Regular Meeting of Members of the "Northern Kalott" Movement Has Taken Place in Murmansk

First a few words about the history of this movement. The word 'kalott' itself can be translated as 'cap'. A cap on the top of the planet. In 1962 representatives of northern regions of Norway, Sweden, Finland and the Soviet Union met for the first time in the Finnish city of Kemi to discuss common problems. Among those participating in the kalott meetings are representatives of world peace committees, trade union, women's and youth groups, businessmen, and representatives of sister cities...

And now comes the tenth anniversary meeting of members of the Northern Kalott movement in Murmansk. This time ecological problems were at the centre of attention. In virtually all special interest groups, whether composed of representatives of peace organizations, business circles or youth, again and again one hears the word "ecology".

We cannot be insensitive to the enormous atmospheric emissions of sulphurous compounds, the destruction of forests, the catastrophic pollution of the sea with oil products, pesticides, domestic waste... Alarming facts could be heard in the reports of M. Nenonen of Finland, the Swede G. Nilsson, and the Soviet scientist G. Matishov.

It seems that we are moving away from the demonstrations of good intentions and peaceful rhetoric with which, to put it bluntly, we and our northern neighbours attempted until recently to plug the holes opened by the policy of confrontation, and we are moving toward business-like discussion and cooperation in the realms of economics, ecology and trade. And so now